

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 02083 081503Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 /089 W

-----100586 090501Z /17

R 081435Z DEC 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9841

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2083

PARIS FOR NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEDU SCUL IS JO PORG UNESCO

SUBJ: UNESCO INTERVIEW WITH BIR ZEIT ADMINISTRATION

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 10141, (B) JERUSALEM 2039

1. BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY'S ACTING PRESIDENT GABY BARAMKI DEC. 8
DISCUSSED WITH CONGEN OFFICER MEETING HE HAD HAD PREVIOUS DAY
WITH UNESCO TEAM STUDYING PALESTINIAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION.

2. BARAMKI SAID TEAM HAD WANTED TO VISIT BIR ZEIT
UNIVERSITY, BUT WAS PREVENTED BY ISRAELIS BECAUSE OF
"SECURITY." INSTEAD, BARAMKI WAS SUMMONED BY MILGOV
TO MEET TEAM IN A JERUSALEM HOTEL WITH NO ADVANCE NOTICE
AND IN PRESENCE OF ISRAELI OFFICIAL. BARAMKI
OBJECTED TO BOTH BAN ON A VISIT TO THE CAMPUS AND
PRESENCE OF ISRAELI OFFICER, BUT SAID HE NEVERTHELESS
FRANKLY PRESENTED GRIEVANCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 02083 081503Z

3. BARAMKI'S MAJOR COMPLAINTS WERE:

(A) LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING IN EDUCATION
DUE TO ABSENCE OF WEST BANK NATIONAL (I.E. PALESTINIAN)
AUTHORITY.

(B) WEST BANK DROP OUTS LURED AWAY FROM STUDY BY PAYING JOBS IN ISRAEL AND EXPLOITATION OF THIS PALESTINIAN LABOR POOL.

(C) CENSORSHIP (BARAMKI CITED LIST OF 40 PERIODICALS MOST IF NOT ALL AVAILABLE AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY WHICH HAVE BEEN DENIED BIR ZEIT WITH ONE EXCEPTION.)

(D) HARRASSMENT (BARAMKI CITED ARRESTS OF BIR ZEIT STUDENTS FOR ACTS COMMITTED LONG BEFORE ENROLLMENT AS WELL AS INTERROGATIONS.)

(E) RED TAPE (BARAMKI CITED UNREASONABLE DELAYS IN OBTAINING RESIDENCY PERMITS FOR FACULTY MEMBERS.

4. ISRAELI OFFICER PRESENT OFTEN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRADICT, AND BARAMKI WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT HE WAS NOT GIVEN NOTICE SO AS TO PREPARE EVIDENCE BEFORE INTERVIEW. BARAMKI SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING TRYING TO CONTACT TEAM TO ARRANGE SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE INTERVIEW; HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED THAT COULD BE DONE WITHOUT ISRAELI KNOWLEDGE AND DEPORTATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT HANNA NASER GAVE HIM PAUSE.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE DISCOMFORT TO DR BARAMKI, INTERVIEW APPARENTLY EXPOSED UNESCO TEAM TO PROBABLY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 JERUSA 02083 081503Z

MOST EXACTING CRITICISM OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION BY ANY WEST BANK EDUCATOR. NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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